

In Acts xxiii, 11, God gives Paul a definite promise but tells him nothing about the rough way in which it was to be fulfilled. This is only a sample of what occurs to us all. While we are passing through dreadful ordeals and suffering the intense flames of some purifying furnace, God is all the while preparing us for the realization of the most glorious promises. Truly "His judgments are unsearchable, and his ways past finding out." Rom. ix, 33. We must learn to be still and know that He is God." Psa. xlvii, 10, and this requires a life long discipline. God wants possession of every atom and nook of body, soul, and spirit, and it is only through the Cross that he gains his sublime purpose. His exalted, magnificent Goal we admire; but the way is an intolerable offence to our Carnal nature. There is but one alternative, the Cross and Eternal Glory, or a crossless life and eternal death. It is character that God wants to form in us and He offers us no lower Standard than His own Perfections in the man Christ Jesus. I am. This makes the way very narrow for the flesh, but very broad for faith and love. Faith can walk through Psa. xxiii, 4, while singing 1 Cor. xv 55, 57. The church of the nineteenth century has not yet fairly tested the power and grandeur and blessedness of Christianity. The first century and the present are as different as a man and his shadow. In No. 14 of "EVANGELIST," we have an inkling in the right direction in the articles entitled "If Religion" and "Divine Healing." To be a Christian "out and out," to know nothing but Christ, and Him Crucified is to be regarded with suspicion, if not aversion by the majority of professors. "Looking unto Jesus." What do we behold? God Incarnate. Then the question, Am I? Then the true Christian answer. As he is so am I in this world. 1 John iv, 17. If we are indeed incarnations of God we cannot escape the ordeal of John xv, 18 19 and 1 John iii, 13 and the severer test of Rev. ii, 2, "He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

If you would get more from God, thank him for what he has already done.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Many decisions of the National Conferences are not respected, and that too, by those who are the prime factors in shaping the resolutions and presenting them to conference, and who insists upon them being voted for. If then, the leaders do not respect such decisions how can they expect the followers to do so?

It was decided at the organization of the church in National Convention that once in five years should be the limit or interval of time in which to hold such meetings. That was respected until 1892 and then it was decided to hold them thereafter bi-ennially, with the exception of last year; but in the face of of this conference is appointed for this year. And I noticed that some contend for annual conferences hereafter.

Now not a few of us have held up our heads in horror at the great expense and waste of time lavished upon the annual meetings of our G. B. friends. We have contended that this money could be and should be applied to better purposes. But if we adopt the same rule we are not better than the ones whom we condemn; in fact even worse, for the teacher should be better than those taught. We claimed they were sinning in this waste of so much means to no purpose, but now shall we fall in and sin with them?

Bi-ennial conferences are often enough for any National church conference. The country would be better off with less lawing and changing of laws, and taxing the people to pay for the expense of making these laws, and I believe the same is true of the church especially when we have district conferences each year when anything of vital importance could be attended to. I have learned to know that often those who advocate so much in the way of what we should do, and could do, are often the ones least competent to do, and have the least means to do with. There is a "zeal without knowledge," and a judgment void of understanding.

We feel ashamed of the meager attendance at our district conferences often, and the same can be said of our national conference of last year, but

how can we expect to feel otherwise so long as we insist on holding both conferences annually.

We are not numerically as strong as the older churches, hence we cannot expect to do as much.

There are but few churches that hold National Conferences annually, even of the oldest churches. National Biennial Conferences with annual district conferences are all that we can hope to do with success.

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FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

Rom 1:16.

BY ESTHER L. DICKEY.

Through the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit sent from God the sinner is both convinced, and convicted of sin. John, 16:8, 9. Which being Godly sorrow for sin that worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. II Cor. 7, 10. Through repentance, which includes confessing, and forsaking sins for He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth, and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Prov. xxviii, 13. Also a forgiving spirit, and restitution to the extent of ability. If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. Luke, xix:8. I am glad true Gospel repentance makes men, and women honest.

This preparation humbles the penitent and places him in a condition before God so that Christ imparts saving faith: repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts xx, 21. Repentance must in every case precede living faith. Mark, i, 15, Heb. vi. i. Matt. xxi, 32. A sinner cannot call God his father for like begets like. The Devil is the father of the sinner. He that committeth sin is of the Devil: for the Devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil. I John, iii:8. Jesus said to those in sin ye are of your father the Devil. John viii:44. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the Devil. Matt. xiii:38, 39.